

THE JACOBS REPORT

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2005-06 BUDGET AGREEMENT STRUCK

As the week came to a close, the Granholm Administration and legislative leaders reached a tentative agreement on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 budget. It appears that both sides should be able to finalize details by the close of the fiscal year (September 30th), successfully avoiding a politically dangerous confrontation.

Specifics on the compromise are vague, but it has been reported that the deal will spare Northern Michigan University and Wayne State University from proposed cuts. Cash assistance to welfare recipients will also remain intact, but Medicaid will undergo reform. The highly controversial, privately-run Michigan Youth Correctional Facility (MYCF) in Baldwin will lose its state support, but the Newberry prison in the Upper Peninsula is off the chopping block.

The \$175-per-pupil increase in the K-12 per pupil funding makes the budget as well.

To balance the books, both sides claim to have found new revenue from land sales and other pots of money. No new fees or tax increases are expected; but again, the sum of the details isn't completely ironed out.

The Legislature hopes to finish work on this budget by Friday, September 23, allowing the governor and her staff enough time to review the bills before they are signed.

REPUBLICAN PROPOSES EXTENDED LIQUOR HOURS

Senator Michelle McManus (R-Lake Leelanau) announced plans to introduce legislation that would allow bars and restaurants to extend operating times to 4 a.m. Current law requires a closing time of 2 a.m. Licensees would be allowed to apply to the Liquor Control Commission for extended hour permits based on demand of customers, which the Michigan Licensed Beverage Association says would allow the establishments to adapt to "a 24-7 society." The permits would be available for a fee of \$1,500 annually.

RESPONDING TO KATRINA:

PLEASE JOIN THE SOUTHFIELD RELIEF EFFORT

The City of Southfield is taking part in the national Hurricane Katrina relief efforts being coordinated through the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The City is working with other local, state and federal agencies under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), a mutual aid agreement established to provide state-to-state assistance in times of disaster.

Sam Yono, owner of the Southfield Ramada Inn, has actively participated in this effort, graciously opening the Inn's doors to Katrina evacuees.

Additionally, Southfield is hosting a drop-off station for anyone wishing to donate goods to the Salvation Army emergency relief effort. Donations may be dropped off in front of the Parks & Recreation building, located at 26000 Evergreen Road, from Tuesday, September 6 - Friday, September 9 from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

The Salvation Army has indicated that the following new, unopened items are desperately needed: cleaning supplies such as bleach, mops, brooms, and garbage bags; paper items such as paper towels, toilet paper, and diapers; and personal hygiene items such deodorant, women's feminine products, tooth paste and tooth brushes. Volunteers will be on hand to assist with the drop-off and collection of items. Monetary donations will not be accepted at the Southfield donation center. FEMA recommends calling the American Red Cross at (800) 435-7669, or the Salvation Army at (800) 725-2769 to make a monetary donation.

For more information, contact Southfield Emergency Management at (248) 796-5990; or the Salvation Army at (248)443-5500; or visit www.fema.gov.

All Michigan legislation can be tracked at <http://www.legislature.michigan.gov/>.

State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14th Senate District, which includes Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Franklin, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, Southfield, and Southfield Township. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.

Constituents of the 14th District may contact Senator Jacobs at sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov or toll-free at 1-888-937-4453.

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